

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 33-94 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 36, 39, 41, 58 and 91 have been amended. Claims 93 and 94 have been newly added.

For brevity only the rejections of the independent claims (i.e., 1, 58 and 91) are reproduced below using the enumeration provided in the Office Action.

Regarding the various rejections of the dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth below due to their respective dependencies from independent claims 1, 58 and 91.

Further, each of the rejections relies on Kirkland (US 5,677,739) which is not competent as prior art usable against the instant Application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Rejection 1.1: Claims 1, 33-44, 49, 52, 54-56, and 58-61 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Bey (WO 91/03112) in view of Schwob (US 5,152,011) further in view of Yoshio et al. (JP 4310631) further in view of Browne et al. (WO 92/22983) and further in view of **Kirkland** (US 5,677,739). See Office Action at page 3.

Rejection 1.6: Claims 91 and 92 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Bey in view of Schwob further in view of Yoshio, further in view of Browne, further in view of Wysong (US 3,922,607) and further in view of **Kirkland**. See Office Action at page 21.

Rejection 2.1: Claims 1, 33-37, 49, 52, 54-56, and 58-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang (US 5,057,932) in view of Schwob further in view of Yoshio, further in view of Browne, and further in view of **Kirkland**. See Office Action at page 26.

Rejection 2.8: Claims 91 and 92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Schwob, further in view of Yoshio, further in view of Browne, further in view of Wysong and further in view of Kirkland. See Office Action at pages 47 and 48.

Rejection 3.1: Claims 1, 33-37, 45, 49, and 58-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Browne et al. (WO 92/22983) in view of Schwob and further in view of Kirkland. See Office Action at page 54.

Rejection 3.13: Claims 91-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Browne in view of Schwob, further in view of Wysong and further in view of Kirkland. See Office Action at page 71.

Kirkland is not available to be used as prior art against the instant application.

The present application is a continuation of U.S. 08/769,902, filed on December 18, 1996, now U.S. Patent 5,751,806, which is a divisional of U.S. 08/181,394, filed January 12, 1994, now U.S. Patent 5,590,195, which in turn is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. 08/031,763, filed March 15, 1993, now U.S. Patent 5,406,626.

Kirkland was filed in the USPTO on March 2, 1995. As a result, at least the January 12, 1994, effective filing date of the present application antedates Kirkland's earliest effective filing date of March 2, 1995. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Kirkland is not available to be used as prior art against the instant application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 7, 2013

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